

March 11, 2021

Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
c/o Steven Liang
City of Philadelphia Law Department
1515 Arch Street, 17th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

From: DeBorah Giles
Phone: 215-386-2026

Attached are several signed petitions to ask that the Water Department withhold the rate increases proposed for September 2021 and September 2022. These are signatures collected in the course of doing my job and RCO (residential community organization) community outreach.

The citizens of Philadelphia are currently trying to adjust to many trials: the COVID pandemic, Child education issues, unbridled development, which brings noise and confusion, challenges to mental health and many other daily issues. It seems unconscionable to further tax people with increased costs when unemployment and small business closings are still prevalent. Therefore, we ask that the Water department to take the hardships of the regular people and businesses that support the City overall into consideration and to find another way to support the needs of the infrastructure.

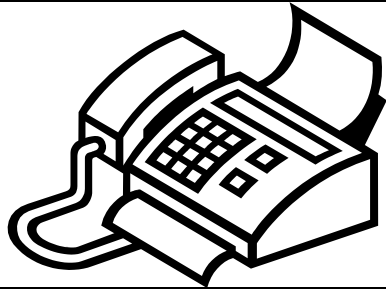
We acknowledge that the City pipes are 100+ years old and in need of repair. However, the stress on the pipes could be caused by the unbridled development of large mixed-use multi-family and business buildings, which probably put increased pressure on these old water structures. Perhaps a better way of securing funds is to significantly increase the fees of the developers that may be the cause of the problem rather than stress the citizens who wholeheartedly support the City of Philadelphia. The rents received by the owners coupled with the ten year real estate tax abatement received allows for enough cash flow that these entrepreneurs can afford to assist the City and the Water Department in its dilemma.

I will continue to forward signatures as they are received. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DeBorah Giles EA, ATP, ABA, MBA

Cc: City Council District Representative: J Gauthier
PA Utilities Commission
City Council President: D. Clark
Councilwoman-at-Large: K. Gilmore



To: D Clarke

Fax number: 215-686-1901

Date: 3/15/202120

Regarding: WATER BOARD RATE INCREASE PROPOSAL OPPOSITION

Comments: Let me know when you receive this information (215-386-2026). Thank you.

DeBorah Giles

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